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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 2417

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PE
SUBJ: PERUVIAN POSITION ON U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

REF: STATE 063871

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A MARCH 24 CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE, THE AMBASSADOR GAVE THE FOREIGN MINISTER A COPY OF THE PERUVIAN NEWS AGENCY (ESI-ANDINA) REPORT ON PRIME MINISTER ARBULU'S MARCH 14 PRESS CONFERENCE IN SANTIAGO. THE ESI-ANDINA DISPATCH AS CARRIED IN MARCH 15 PERUVIAN DAILIES INCLUDED THE ARBULU QUOTE REPORTED IN PARA 3 REFTEL BUT DID NOT REPEAT NOT CARRY INTERPRETATION ATTRIBUTED TO ESI-ANDINA (PARA 4 REFTEL). THE AMBASSADOR INVITED DE LA PUENTE'S COMMENT ON THE DISPATCH. DE LA PUENTE RESPONDED THAT ARBULU'S STATEMENT (EMPHASIZING NON-INTERVENTION, NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, AND IMPORTANCE OF COUNTRIES' SPECIAL SITUATIONS) WAS AFTER ALL MADE IN CHILE AND REFLECTED THAT FACT. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED IF GOP POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS REMAINED THAT DESCRIBED BY DE LA PUENTE TO SECRETARY VANCE AND BY PRESIDENT MORALES BURMUDEZ TO THE AMBASSADOR. DE LA PUENTE REPLIED THAT GOP POLICY WAS AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, I.E. TO SUPPORT U.S. EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE SAME TIME RECOMMENDING CAUTION ON APPLICATION IN LATIN AMERICAN IN CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCORDANCE WITH VARYING CONDITIONS IN THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

2. COMMENT: ARBULU'S STATEMENT MUST BE VIEWED IN CONTEXT. HE WAS IN CHILE ON A MISSION TO FURTHER REDUCE TENSIONS BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE. HE STRESSED COMMON INTERESTS -- THE WAR AGAINST UNDER-DEVELOPMENT, FRATERNAL TIES, POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS, JOINT INTEREST IN PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING

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RATHER THEN IN AN ARMS RACE. THEREFORE IN RESPONSE TO A
JOURNALIST'S QUESTION HE REFRAINED FROM IRRITATING CHILE AND
FOCUSED ON NON-INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AND RESPECT FOR
NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH A GOP POLICY
OF AVOIDING CRITICISM OF GOC DOMESTIC POLICIES. THE GOP HAS
IN THE PAST CLOSED PERIODICALS FOR ENGAGING IN JOURNALISTIC
ATTACKS ON THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT.

3. THE INTERPRETATION OF ARBULU'S REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO THE
PERUVIAN NEWS AGENCY BY FBIS MAKES A NUMBER OF GRATUITOUS
ASSUMPTIONS INCLUDING THE STATEMENT THAT THE GOP CONSIDERS
"PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTITUDE INTERVENTION IN THE DOMESTIC
AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES". THAT COMMENT WAS NOT CARRIED IN
PERU AND ARBULU'S REMARKS WERE BURIED AMONG EXTENSIVE
COMMENTARY ON WAR AND PEACE. AN EXEGESIS OF THE STATEMENT
ITSELF MIGHT REVEAL AN ARBULU EFFORT TO REITERATE TWO SEPARATE
PRINCIPLES, THE CLASSIC LATIN AMERICAN ADHERENCE TO NON-
INTERVENTION IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS FOLLOWED BY A STATEMENT
THAT THE APPLICATION OF A HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY SHOULD TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONDITIONS. THE TWO PRINCIPLES
SEEM TO BE CONSISTENT WITH STATEMENTS TO THE USG BY PERU'S
PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER. THE ALLEGED ESI-ANDINA INTER-
PRETATION OF ARBULU'S COMMENTS WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE CONSISTENT
WITH THESE STATEMENTS. FINALLY, ARBULU IS KNOWN AS A PROFESSIONAL
SOLDIER, NOT A STATESMAN, WITH LITTLE INTEREST IN BROADER
POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ROLE. THEREFORE
IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING TO FIND SOME DIFFERENCE OF EMPHASIS
BETWEEN HIS RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION AND THE CARE-
FULLY CONSIDERED HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS OF MARALES BERMUDEZ
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Message Attributes

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